

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 14604 01 OF 02 101727Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 ACDA-12 /091 W
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P R 101715Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0995
USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14604

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV BQG
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF POSSIBLE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES
ON NON-ALLIED ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN

1. THE FRG PRESS OF AUGUST 9 CARRIED A NUMBER OF
REPORTS OF AUGUST 8 ARTICLES, WHICH WE ASSUME EMBASSY
BERLIN WILL REPORT MORE FULLY, IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND
BERLINER ZEITUNG TO THE EFFECT THAT INCREASED GDR
CONTROLS ON VISITORS TO EAST BERLIN AND THE USE OF
FOREIGN CURRENCY MIGHT BE NECESSARY. THE EAST GERMAN
ARTICLES WERE, THE FRG PRESS SAYS, IN RESPONSE TO AN
ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE SENSATIONAL WEST GERMAN
BILD ZEITUNG UNDER THE HEADLINE: "FOR HARD D-MARK: HOT
SEX ON THE ALEX." THE BILD ARTICLE DESCRIBED HOW EAST
GERMAN GIRLS AT ALEXANDER PLATZ
ENGAGE IN PROSTITUTION WITH VISITORS FROM WEST BERLIN.

2. AT THE AUGUST 9 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP
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PAGE 02 BONN 14604 01 OF 02 101727Z

(VON BRAUNMUEHL) SAID THAT THE FRG CONSIDERS THE EAST
BERLIN ARTICLES IMPORTANT AND SHARED WITH US THE VIEWS
OF THE FRG PERMREP IN EAST BERLIN. HE SAID THAT THE
PERMREP REPORTS THAT MANY OF THE THINGS CONTAINED IN THE
BILD ARTICLE ARE PROBABLY TRUE AND THAT SOME VISITORS,
ESPECIALLY TURKISH GUEST WORKERS FROM WEST BERLIN,
ARE CREATING DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. IN THIS CONNECTION THE

PERMREP BELIEVES THAT THE MEASURES RESTRICTING ENTRY INTO EAST BERLIN AT THE BEGINNING OF 1977 WERE LARGELY WELCOMED BY THE GDR POPULATION.

3. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT THE FRG CONCERN IS HEIGHTENED BY THE FACT THAT BILD ZEITUNG IS NOT READ IN EAST BERLIN NOR IS IT USUALLY QUOTED BY THE FRG MEDIA BROADCASTS WHICH CAN BE RECEIVED IN THE GDR. THERE WAS, THEREFORE, NO NEED FOR THE GDR TO REACT TO IT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ITS OWN POPULATION. HE SAID THIS FACT, PLUS THE FACT THAT THE EAST GERMAN ARTICLES APPEARED THE NEXT DAY, LENDS SUPPORT TO THE THEORY THAT THE GDR REACTION WAS ALREADY PREPARED, AWAITING AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY FOR ITS PUBLICATION.

4. HE SAID THAT OF THE TWO WARNINGS, A LIMITATION OF VISITS AND STRICTER CURRENCY CONTROLS (E.G., THAT ONLY FOREIGNERS COULD USE WEST MARKS IN INTERSHOPS), THE FRG CONSIDERS THE FIRST TO BE THE MORE LIKELY TO PRESAGE PLANNED MEASURES. THE QUESTION IS THEN TO WHOM THE WARNINGS WERE DIRECTED. THERE ARE THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES :

- TO THE VISITORS THEMSELVES.
- TO THE WESTERN PRESS, THAT IT SHOULD NOT PRINT SUCH ARTICLES.

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PAGE 03 BONN 14604 01 OF 02 101727Z

- TO THE SENAT AND THE FRG, TO CONTROL THE PRESS OR THE VISITORS.

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PAGE 01 BONN 14604 02 OF 02 101726Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14604

- TO WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION, TO SOFTEN IT UP FOR
POSSIBLE NEW RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AND TO LAY
A BASIS FOR UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE MEASURES,
WHICH MAY ALREADY BE PLANNED.
- TO THE GDR'S OWN POPULATION, AS A WARNING TO
AVOID FOREIGN CONTACTS.
- TO HONECKER, THAT HE SHOULD BE CAREFUL OF
THE INTERSHOP POLICY.

5. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT THE ARTICLES LISTED THE
AUTHORIZED REASONS FOR VISITS TO EAST BERLIN AND THE
GDR CONTAINED IN PART II OF THE QA (COMPASSIONATE,
FAMILY, RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL, AND TOURISTIC) BUT LEFT
OUT THE "COMMERCIAL" REASON. THE GDR ARTICLES SAID THAT
THE VISITS MIGHT BE CONFINED TO THOSE LISTED. HE SAID
GDR MAY WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ANY MEASURES
IT TAKES ARE IN CONFORMITY WITH THE QUADRIPARTITE
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PAGE 02 BONN 14604 02 OF 02 101726Z

AGREEMENT.

6. THE BONN GROUP REPS AGREED THAT THIS IS A HIGHLY
SENSITIVE SUBJECT AND THAT ANY GDR ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT
ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. WE
RECALLED THE ALLIED REACTION TO THE MEASURES TAKEN AT
THE BEGINNING OF 1977 AND THE CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR A REACTION TO
FURTHER RESTRICTIONS WHICH WERE RUMORED TO BE PLANNED
FOR THE BEGINNING OF 1978. THE ALLIED REPS AGREED TO
SEEK THE VIEWS OF THE EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN
AND THE MISSIONS IN WEST BERLIN AS TO THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF THE EAST GERMAN ARTICLES.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT EMBASSY BERLIN AND USBER
PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMENT THEY
DEEM APPROPRIATE.
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